

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 24th June 2024**.

Those present

Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr Simon Penney
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Annelise Furnace	Cllr John Rider
Cllr Dawn Newell	Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Nathan Parsad - Wyatt	Cllr Steve Smith

In attendance: 4 x members of the public
Lisa Dale –
Chris Carter – Press

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by thought for the day from Cllr John Rider

24/27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Salvatore Pagdades
Cllr Angus Parsad - Wyatt
Approved [Prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Annelise Furnace]

24/28 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Annelise Furnace raised as a member of Sustainable Sawbridgeworth the agenda item regarding reducing the councils carbon footprint should be disclosed. It was not felt this was to be recorded as a pecuniary interest.

24/29 PUBLIC FORUM

Questions

Does this Council have a communication and engagement strategy? If so, how will it be shared with residents? If not, why not?

Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt responded that the Town Action Plan had an action to review all communication platforms and the Clerk is working on a protocol and this matter will be progressed by Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt.

Will this Council conduct an audit of signage in the town to ensure that current signs are fit for purpose and that amenities and community assets are properly signposted?

Cllr Eric Buckmaster stated the Clerk and himself will liaise directly with Hazel regarding the war memorial brown sign as this was initially funded by the town council previously.

Regarding the sports association signage there is an opportunity for the association to apply for funding next month. Also, if the sports association explore what is needed and to apply to the town council for funding this can be considered in next year's budget.

An initial question related to actions by MP Julie Marson and Cllr Reece Smith stated we would not be in a position to comment on this.

The second part to the question related to a footpath to Leventhorpe School allowing pupils to walk to school away from road pollution. Cllr Annelise Furnace stated that Sustainable Sawbridgeworth were campaigning to upgrade footpath 9 to an all-weather surface for this purpose using a petition.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster will be utilising some of his locality budget to assess the cost to upgrade footpath 9 to an all-weather surface. Consultation on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) will open to the public on the 8th July. He is exploring funding opportunities for footpath 9 as part of the LCWIP and other funding streams.

It appears we are suffering an increase in anti-social behaviour in particular a scooter with three people on it riding around the town. Can the town council put out a communication around this?

The Clerk stated he was working with the local officers and utilising CCTV to identify any incidents and assist in prosecutions if offences are captured.

24/30 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the town council held on 20th May 2024 (M01)
[prop Cllr Greg Rattey; sec'd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.
Nothing was raised.

24/31 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 20th May 2024 (P01)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 10th June 2024 (P02)

24/32 FINANCE, POLICY and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the Finance, Policy and Economic Development Committee held on 10th June 2024 (F01)

24/33 TOWN CLERK REPORT

Received and noted: the clerk's report for the month of June 2024.

24/34 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2023-24

1. **Noted:** the report of the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2023-24
2. **Resolved:** to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement, 2023/2024.
[prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt]
3. **Resolved:** to approve and sign the Annual Return for 2023/24.
[prop Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr Eric Buckmaster]

24/35 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive new Mayor's appointments and communications
Cllr Reece Smith advised.

- Attended river day which was a fantastic event and gave a good opportunity for engagement where he met several groups who complete great work locally.
- Commemorated D-Day through an event organised by the history society and led by Father Simon.
- Attended the local scouts group AGM and awards ceremony where several young people received awards for leadership. Over 2000 badges have been awarded to our scout group members in the last 12 months,
- Attended the Ukrainian summer garden party. It was heartwarming to attend this community event in a great setting.

24/36

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster additionally added;
 - Angie Ridgwell has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of Herts County Council.
 - Has written a letter to a minister representing 'water and growth' to visit Hertfordshire as we have 10% of the world chalk streams in this county. The letter included writing to landowners to suggest they reduce water run off from their land.
 - Attended environment Hertfordshire climate change for sustainability. This group have applied to be listed for consideration as a local area for retro fit plans.
 - The first night of improvements to the Essex side of the A1184 has taken place and will be monitored going forward.
 - Engagement will start soon on the local nature recovery plan. A company has been hired to complete this engagement on behalf of the county.
 - At the environmental cabinet panel this Friday we will be working on replacement for the Sustainable Hertfordshire impact assessment and the growth boards 'missions and visions'
 - At District the waste recycling and street cleansing contract will be reviewed.
 - The Chief executive at East Herts has been written to in relation to EV chargers. This resulted in the following information that procurement is close, around four to five weeks until a tender launch but realistically EV chargers will not arrive until 2025.

Question.

Cllr Furnace, asked as Hertfordshire Council will receive 7.8 million pounds from the HS2 project can some money be diverted to help the footpath 9 upgrade. Cllr Eric Buckmaster feels that this money may not be available but other funding will be explored.

Regarding the better health bus mentioned in Cllr Eric Buckmaster's report, will this be coming to Sawbridgeworth?

ACTION Cllr Eric Buckmaster will enquire regarding the bus.

- Cllr Ruth Buckmaster, updated on the East Herts Council Development Management Committee (DMC) meeting that an application for 60 houses had been made for Watton at Stone and the leader of the Council had an application approved for an air sourced heat pump.
- Herts police – PC Shelly Marshall updated the meeting on local issues. Various schools have been visited prior to the summer holidays to try and reduce ASB. They have and will

attend council events and will inform Councillors on police events to allow for engagement. Speed enforcement will continue and are now entering a period of high demand due to the European championship football. The town centre CCTV has proved key for information relating to a crime series in the region. No peaks in crime have been seen in the town.

Cllr Annelise Furnace asked if there were any youth activities this summer, PC Shelly Marshall didn't think there were.

- Cllr Ruth Buckmaster updated on SYPRC that some damage has been caused to the play equipment at Bullfields. The car park had been re-surfaced but grass cutting had stopped by the football club and the town council due to the lawnmower breaking down. This was now being completed by a local company in the interim. The air sourced heat pumps should be fitted to the centre in August.

RHSO will be celebrating 300 years of the Thomas Rivers Nursery with a whole year of events. Juice sales will be taking place this Saturday in Bell Street.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster added that the celebrations should have a launch in January at the council chamber. All members agreed this was a good idea.

- Cllr Annelise Furnace updated that the energy hub had its first engagement event and 100 residents were engaged with and information on different aspects of energy saving and funding was shared.

The real time air quality monitor will be online soon and accessible through the EHDC website.

The Eco Audit working group met last week and the project on reducing the councils carbon footprint will be reported on at the Finance, Policy and Economic Development Committee and the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee.

Question. Cllr John Rider asked regarding the brook that runs through the town should be raised regarding the water quality. Cllr Annelise Furnace said she had invited Bob Reed to speak at a council meeting to raise awareness with Councillors.

24/37 TOWN PROJECTS MANAGER REPORT

Received and noted: the Town Project Managers report for June 2024

24/38 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATE

Resolved the date for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting set as 24th March 2025.

[prop Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt; secd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]

24/39 REDUCING THE COUNCILS CARBON FOOTPRINT

Resolved for the following agenda items to be adopted at the quarterly Finance, Policy and Economic Development Committee and Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee and annually at the full Town Council meeting.

[prop Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt; secd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]

- To aim to achieve net zero for the council's own generated emissions by 2030 and do all that we can to assist in achieving this by the same year for the wider town.
- In the interim, commit the council towards reducing its own carbon footprint to an absolute minimum by May 2027 [end of current council's term] whilst at the same time identifying a pathway to offset its residual carbon.

24/40 FINANCIAL REPORT
Noted: The current Financial Report

24/41 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT
Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment.

24/42 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
 Nothing was raised.

Meeting ended at 7:53pm

<i>Action</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Update</i>
<i>Will the better health bus mentioned in Cllr Eric Buckmaster report, be coming to Sawbridgeworth?</i>	<i>Cllr Eric Buckmaster</i>	

Signed.....

Date.....